

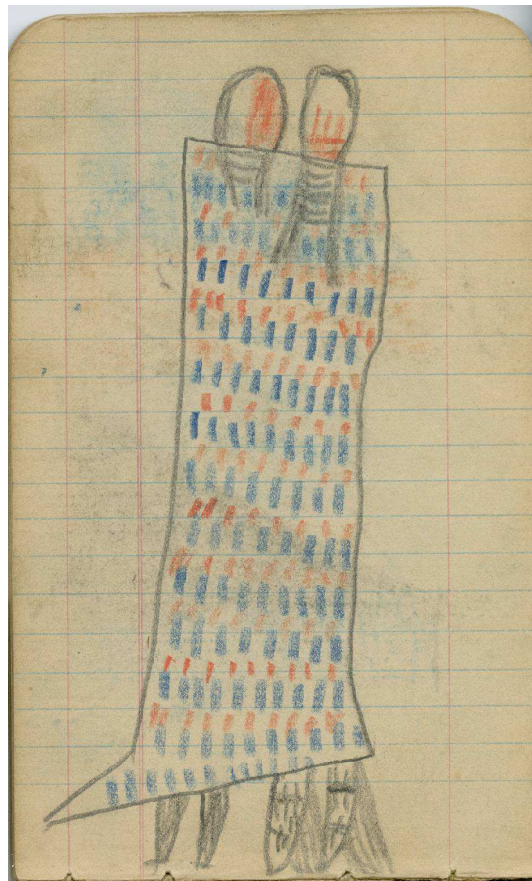
TEACHER'S GUIDE

Primary Source Document Collection

MISSION 3: "A Cheyenne Odyssey"

Ledger Art, *Courting Couple - Porcupine*

As the Plains Indians came into contact with European and American traders they gained access to new tools for creating art. Painting on buffalo hides slowly gave way to drawings on paper, muslin, or canvas. As bound paper ledgers and color pencils became accessible, Plains Indians adapted their painting and recording keeping forms to these new materials, but often kept some traditional aspects of buffalo hide paintings. This drawing is from a ledger book sketched by Porcupine, a Northern Cheyenne leader, while in the Dodge City jail in 1879. It depicts a courting couple wrapped in a blanket. The man's braids show at the bottom of the blanket and both the man and the women have painted faces.



COURTSHIP: Courting Couple in Decorated Blanket. Porcupine Ledger, Plate 23, Pages 42---3, courtesy of The Schøyen Collection. London and Oslo. View the complete book at plainsledgerart.org.
